GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:161
ANSWERED ON:02.02.2017
Accidents in Coal Mines
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents occurred in the coal mines in the country including the recent accident in Eastern Coalfields Limited"s Rajmahal Opencast Project, Jharkhand during each of the last three years and the current year, company and State-wise;

(b) the number of workers died and injured in these accidents and compensation provided to them during the said period along with the outcome of the investigation conducted into these accidents, company and State-wise;

(c) the funds allocated by the Government for the modernization of coal mines in the country during the said period, company-wise; and

(d) whether the instructions issued for ensuring the safety in coal mines in the country are reviewed from time to time and if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER, NEW AND RENEWABLEE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b) As per the information furnished by the office of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), the company-wise, State-wise and year-wise number of fatal accidents & fatalities and serious accidents & serious injuries during last 3 (three) years from 2014 to 2016 are furnished in Annexure − I.

Details of the amount of compensation paid to the next of kin of deceased employees in case of fatal accidents as per Employee's Compensation Act - 2010 in last three years, year-wise and company-wise in Coal India Limited (CIL) and NLC India Limited (NLCIL) is given in Annexure-II and IIA.

The details of the outcome of the investigations (persons responsible and cause of accident) are furnished in Annexure III & IV.

(c) Year wise Capital expenditure made by CIL for modernisation of coal mines under various heads like purchasing of HEMM, purchasing of other P&M items including underground mines, mine development and R&D are given below:

YEAR HEAD (Rs. in crore)
2013-14 HEMM 1461.31
Other P&M items including UG mines, CHP etc 820.08
Railway Siding 50.16
Mine Development 322.17
R&D 11.55
2014-15 HEMM 1504.13
Other P&M items including UG mines, CHP etc 1206.93
Railway Siding 95.01
Mine Development 247.06
R&D 13.52
2015-16 HEMM 804.18
Other P&M items including UG mines, CHP etc 1519.11
Railway Siding 118.72
Mine Development 252.16
R&D 4.88

Further, in case of NLCIL the existing system of equipment i.e. Bucket Wheel Excavators, Spreader and conveyors used for Lignite Production and transportation of Lignite are already modernized. Details of the expenditure incurred for modernisation are furnished below.

In Rs. crore
S.
No Details 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17
1 Delineation of buried sub surface objects and hard band in opencast mines 0.92 0.57 0.024
2 Dynamic loading of conveyor drive heads in Mines - 0.20 0.68

3 Providing Surveillance camera in Specialised Mining Equipment - 0.16 0.70
Total 0.92 0.93 1.404

(d) The provisions of Mines Act, 1952, Subordinate Rules and Regulations made thereunder are being administered for ensuring the safety in coal mines by DGMS. Coalmine owners are responsible for implementing these provisions. These provisions are reviewed from time to time by DGMS taking inputs from experience of officials of DGMS, industry & academic institutions and the recommendations of the tripartite committees.

To check the recurrence of such incidents in future the following steps have been taken by the Government:

(i) Safety audit of all the coalmines has been taken up.

(ii) Strengthening of Internal Safety Organisations (ISO) in coalmines/coal companies.

(iii) To promote and propagate safety awareness in mines, National Safety Awards (Mines), National Conference on Safety in Mines is organized by DGMS. The recommendations of National Conference on Safety in Mines go a long way in enhancing safety of mine workers.

(iv) Workers participation and sensitization in matters of safety are ensured through training in safety and by initiatives like celebration of safety week and safety campaigns, etc.

(v) Safety training programmes are organized among Managers and Supervisors for improving safety standards in mines.

(vi) CIL has taken up a training programme with Safety in Mines Testing and Research Station (SIMTARS) of Govt of Queensland, Australia for training of trainers.

(vii) Facilitates introduction of Risk Assessment Techniques aimed at elimination of risks and to ensure safety of workmen.

(viii) Facilitates introduction of standard operating procedures to avoid unsafe practices in mines.

(ix) A special safety awareness campaign has been launched to increase awareness of mine workers. i.e., 'Safety is My Responsibility' and steps have been taken to propagate the same.

(x) Time to time, DGMS Circulars are issued as guidelines for safer operations in identified thrust areas.

(xi) Risk based inspection system through Shram Suvidha Portal has been implemented for coal mines and for metal mines is under progress.

(xii) Adoption of online safety monitoring systems, establishment of geo-technical cells, installation of gas chromatographs for monitoring and analysing underground mine gases, installation of proximity warning devices to avoid collision of heavy earth moving machinery, environmental tele-monitoring systems in all degree-III gassy mines, slope monitoring systems for overburden benches and OB dumps etc. are some of the other important steps taken by coal companies for improving safety of miners and mining operations in the coal mines.